

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A system (10) for positioning components (20) of different thicknesses on a component platform (35), comprising:
 - a frame (15);
 - a tool head (25) connected to the frame (15), the tool head (25) being vertically movable;
 - a retractable vacuum tube (26) receivable within the tool head (25); and
 - a grasping assembly (60) which can be actuated to securely hold the vacuum tube (26) in a fixed position relative to the tool head (25) after the vacuum tube (26) has been at least partially received within the tool head (25).
2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the grasping assembly (60) comprises a bushing (61) which is movable along a collet (62).
3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the grasping assembly (60) further comprises a knob (63) for manually rotating the vacuum tube (26) about an axis extending longitudinally therethrough.
4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the frame (15) supports the tool head (25) such that the tool head (25) can be moved in X and Y directions.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the components (20) comprise electronic components.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 5, wherein the electronic components (20) comprise integrated circuit chips.

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the component platform (35) comprises a printed circuit board.